

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A modular shelving system having a major length direction and a minor width direction, comprising:

a plurality of modular upright support units to be spaced from each other in said length direction and including a pair of end support units and at least one intermediate support unit between the end units, each unit including a plurality of generally horizontal through passages for receiving and respectively supporting a plurality of elongated shelf-supporting rails of varying lengths to allow for varying the length of the shelving system as well as varying the spacing between the support units, some of the through passages being located at lower areas of the support units to position some of the supporting rails for supporting an appropriate lower shelf, and other of the through passages being located at upper areas of the support units to position other of the supporting rails for supporting an appropriate upper shelf, whereby the intermediate support unit can be selectively moved toward either end support unit to accommodate different loads along the length of the shelving, each of said modular upright support units including at least one outside upright post connected to a generally horizontal inside cross brace at a point aligned with one of said through passages, the upright post being vertically split on a line intersecting the through passage to form a pair of post parts which are separable to effectively open the through passage and, thereby, allow the cross brace to be connected to one of the post parts by an appropriate fastener inserted through the one post part from within the through passage.

2. (Original) The modular shelving system of claim 1 wherein each of said modular upright support units includes a front upright post and a rear upright post joined by cross brace means.

3. (Original) The modular shelving system of claim 2 wherein said cross brace means include an upper cross brace and a lower cross brace.

4. (Original) The modular shelving system of claim 3 wherein said upper and lower cross braces are aligned with respective pairs of upper and lower through passages in the front and rear upright posts.

5. (Original) The modular shelving system of claim 1 wherein said some of the through passages located at lower areas of the support units are completely enclosed through passages.

6. (Original) The modular shelving system of claim 1 wherein said other of the through passages located at upper areas of the support units are open notches near the tops of the support units.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A modular shelving system having a major length direction and a minor width direction, comprising:

a plurality of modular upright support units to be spaced from each other in said length direction and including a pair of end support units and at least one intermediate support unit between the end units, each unit including

a front upright post and a rear upright post, each upright post having an upper through passage and a lower through passage, the lower through passages being completely enclosed passages and the upper through passages being open notches at the tops of the upright posts;

upper and lower cross braces joining the front and rear upright posts, the upper and lower cross braces being aligned with the upper and lower through passages, respectively, in the front and rear upright posts;

whereby the through passages can receive and respectively support a plurality of elongated shelf-supporting rails of varying lengths to allow for varying the length of the shelving system as well as varying the spacing between the support units, the lower through passages thereby receiving lower rails for supporting an appropriate lower shelf and the upper through passages receiving upper rails for supporting an appropriate upper shelf; and

whereby the intermediate support unit can be selectively moved toward either end support unit to accommodate different loads along the length of the shelving; and

each of said modular upright support units including at least one outside upright post connected to a generally horizontal inside cross brace at a point aligned with one of said through passages, the upright post being vertically split on a line intersecting the through passage to form a pair of post parts which are separable to effectively open the through passage and, thereby, allow the cross brace to be connected to one of the post parts by an appropriate fastener inserted through the one post part from within the through passage.

9. (Original) The modular shelving system of claim 8 wherein said upper and lower cross braces are aligned with respective pairs of upper and lower through passages in the front and rear upright posts.

10-16. (Cancelled)